Previous file
No. 2

MILITARY COLLECTION No. 386 (1)

IOR:L/MIL/7/15789

File 3

GENERAL HEADING - British West Africa

Niger

1898-

SUB-HEAD - Casualties among the Madras Sappers Employed in the Niger territories

D. to India, No. 129 p. 13 dated 1 Dec 1898.	Death of Naik Lakshmanan
D. to India, No. 3 p. 17 dated 5 Jan 1899.	Death of Sapper Maduranayakan
D to India, No. 122 p. 22 dated 30 Nov 1899.	Do Lance-Naik Anthonaton
D to India, No. 74 p. 6 dated 14 June 1900.	13 Sappers invalided
D to India, No. 91. p. 9. dated 26 July 1900.	17 out 13 ch. Services of 7 natives very highly commended.
To India, No. 117 p. 14 dated 11 Oct 1900.	Return to India
To India, No. 7 p. 24 dated 18 Jan 1901.	Forwards regl documents of 17 natives
India, No. p. dated 18 .	

1898. M. 11071. 12286

1899. M. 11225

1900. M. 4787. 6160. 9581. 10075 11739

18 . M.

Memoranda.

Next file
No.

MARKED OFF.
INDEXED

(2)

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 5.

M
159
1901

EXTRACT

MILITARY DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

No. 7 para. 24

Dated 18 Jan 1901.

M 159

24. Herewith are forwarded the regimental documents of the 17 Madrassi Sappers who were invalided from West Africa to this country.

One of the men, No. 1942 Sapper Manuel, died after arrival in England; the remaining 16 have returned to India.

[*In continuation of paragraph* 14 *of my Military Despatch No.* 117, *dated* 11*th October* 1900.]

(Form 5.)

Y 28786. 5000.—6/96. I. 1101.

INDEXED

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. 40611/1900

(3)

M
159
1901

386/3 10075/00

Downing Street,

1 January, 1901.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before Secretary Lord George Hamilton, with a view to their being forwarded to India, the regimental documents of the 16 Madrassi Sappers of the West African Frontier Force who sailed for India in November last and of the Sapper whose death has been reported to the India Office.

2. The documents in question have only recently reached this Department from Wellington Barracks.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. P. Lucas

RECEIVED
1
2 JAN. 1901
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State

INDIA OFFICE

(4)

MARKED OFF.
INDEXED

Coll 386/2/3

M
11734
1900.

Copy Reference from the Financial Department.

Register No. F 5750 Dated 190 .

Referred to Military Department.	Reply.
Dated 16 Nov 190 0.	Dated 19 Nov 190 0.
For information /Sd/ S. C. Hoyt.	Seen. (Sd) E. STEDMAN.
Invalided Masters Sailors from W. Africa per S.S. "Soudan" /	

(Form 29.)

Y 4504. 1000.—10/99. I. 1759

(5)

Return to Mr. _____ *Copy for* _____

MARKED OFF.
INDEXED

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 10.

M
10075
1900

DRAFT LETTER PAPER.

Addressed to the Under Sec. of State
Colonial Office

Reminder in *weeks*

Noted for

Signed
Do not forget to
allow fair.

INDIA OFFICE,

4 OCT. 1900

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of

the 2nd Oct: No 30784/1900, regarding

~~and to acquaint you in reply that~~

the return to India of the Madras
Sappers & Miners lately employed in
West Africa, which will be duly
communicated to the Govt of India.

(SIR) E. STEDMAN,
Major General,
Military Secretary.

S-586
10

S.J. (Form 10.)

Y 4628. 5000.—11/99. I. 1994.

F.W.S.
3/10/00

(6)

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 5.

M
9581
1900

MARKED OFF.
INDEXED

EXTRACT

MILITARY DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

No. 117 para. 14

Dated 11 Oct. 1900.

14. I forward herewith copy of further letters* from the Colonial Office regarding the return to India of the detachment of Madras Sappers and Miners employed with the West African Frontier Force.

[*In continuation of paragraph* 9 *of my Military Despatch No.* 91, *dated* 26*th July* 1900.]

M 9581.

* Dated 19th September and 2nd October 1900.

(Form 5.)

Y 28786. 5000.—6/96. I. 1101.

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. 30784/1900

p 11/10 ✓ P.P. 9581

M 10075 1900

Downing Street,

2 October, 1900.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 19th of September, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to state, for the information of Secretary Lord George Hamilton, that arrangements have been made for the departure for India of the Madras Sappers invalided from the West African Frontier Force, by the Steam Ship "Golconda", sailing from London for Madras on the 16th of November.

2. Mr. Chamberlain regrets that it has not been possible to arrange for their departure at an earlier date.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. L. Antrobus

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

INDIA OFFICE.

RECEIVED 4 INDIA OFFICE 20 OCT. 1900

B

53/West Ofsen/2284

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. 29950/1900.

INDEXED

Col 386/3 { P.P. 4787 6160

M 9581 1900

Downing Street,

19 September, 1900.

Sir,

With reference to your letter N.4787 of the 24th of May, I am directed by Mr Secretary Chamberlain to state for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that the High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria found it necessary to invalid to England the whole of the 17 Non-Commissioned Officers and men who were surviving of the detachment of Madras Sappers attached to the West African Frontier Force.

2. They arrived in England on the 30th ultimo, in charge of Captain A. B. Molesworth, C.R.E., West African Frontier Force, and are quartered at Wellington Barracks until their passages to India can be arranged, with the exception of No.1942 Sapper Manuel, who unfortunately died on the 8th instant, in the Guards Hospital, Rochester Row.

3. Her Majesty the Queen has graciously consented to inspect the detachment at Balmoral on the 19th instant. On their return to London they will be sent to India by the earliest opportunity, and a further communication will be sent to you when the vessel and date of departure have been fixed.

RECEIVED
3
INDIA OFFICE
20 SEP. 1900

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. L. Antrobus

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

INDIA OFFICE.

MARKED OFF.
INDEXED.

(9)

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 5.

M
6160
1900

EXTRACT

MILITARY DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

No. 91 para. 9

Dated 26 July 1900.

M 6160.

9. I forward for your information copy of further correspondence‡ regarding the return to India of 17 Madrassis of the West African Frontier Force. It will be seen that the services of these natives, seven of them more especially, are very highly commended by the Commandant of the Force.

[*In continuation of paragraph* 6 *of my Military Despatch No.* 74, *dated* 14*th June* 1900.]

‡ From Colonial Office, dated 4th July 1900, with enclosures.

(Form 5.)

Y 28786. 5000.—6/96. I. 1101.

dpm

(10)

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. 19953/1900.

INDEXED

386/3 / PP. 4787

M
6160
1900

Ind D 69

Downing Street,

4 July, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, with reference to your letter M.4787 of the 24th of May, that Brigadier General Lugard has now reported that he is sending back to India all the 17 Madrassis of the West African Frontier Force. The actual date of their departure from West Africa has not yet been notified.

From Gen: Lugard
14 May.

2. I am to transmit to you, to be laid before Lord George Hamilton, a copy of a despatch with its enclosure from Brigadier General Lugard, relating to the services rendered by these Madrassis, and I am to suggest that this report should be communicated to the Government of India.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. L. Antrobus.

RECEIVED
1
5 JUL. 1900
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,

INDIA OFFICE.

RR

Copy.

W.A.F.F.

No.65.

Government House,

Jebba. 14th May, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter addressed to me by Colonel Willcocks C.M.G., D.S.O., Commandant West African Frontier Force, relative to the services of the Madrassis who are now returning to India and recommending 7 of them to the special notice of the Lieutenant General, Commanding in Madras.

2. I have the honour to endorse the remarks made by Colonel Willcocks and I trust the men may receive the promotion for which he recommends them. The Queen's Own Madras Sappers and Miners have been most useful here and have had to put up with very considerable hardships and the absence of many things which are almost essentials to them. Their conduct has been good and their work is highly spoken of by the Officer Commanding the Sapper Corps.

I have, &c.,

(Sgd) F.D.LUGARD,

The Right Honourable,

Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.,

&c. &c. &c.

(12)

Ind Dep

M
6160
1900

WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE

NO.34

Jebba, Nigeria, 30th April, 1900.

From Colonel J.Willcocks, C.M.G., D.S.O.,

Commandant, West African Frontier Force.

To His Excellency,

The High Commissioner,

Northern Nigeria.

Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your notice the names of the following Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the "Queen's Own" Madras Sappers and Miners attached to this Force and who are now about to return to India.

I shall be glad if Your Excellency will forward this letter on to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies with any remarks you may wish to make, as I am strongly of opinion that the services of these men, who have been serving so far from their homes and who are the first natives of India who have ever reached the Niger, should be brought to the favourable consideration of the Government of India and through that Government to the Lieutenant General of the Madras Command.

Three of the 20 who came out originally have died, but this does not compare unfavourably with the Europeans and as these Sappers have had no means of getting a change of climate by invaliding or otherwise I think Your Excellency was fully justified in believing

No 4

believing they would stand the climate fairly well. Since their accommodation and food has been better, they have picked up considerably but I think perhaps 2 years and six months including passages both ways is about enough for aliens to live here at present and until such time as a permanent Cantonment has been fixed on and barracks constructed.

1133. Havildar MUNISAMI. A Non-Commissioned Officer of excellent character, very hardworking, intelligent and well able to command his men. I sincerely trust the authorities in Madras will see their way to promoting him to Havildar Major for which I beg most strongly to recommend him.

1003. Lance Havildar MUNISAMI. Character very good, hard working and has been most useful. I recommend him for promotion to Havildar.

1991. Lance Naik RAJENDRAM. Character very good, work most satisfactory. Served in the Expedition to the Upper Kaduna Country. Recommended for Naik.

1516. Lance Naik PAZHANIYANDI. Character very good, work always well done.

1150. Sapper SUBBARAYAN. A very plucky fellow who notwithstanding he was too old to be sent out here stuck to his duty throughout.

1444. Sapper KAPPIAH. Good character, though unfortunately he once forgot himself, otherwise highly deserving. Has been most useful to the Force and worked very hard.

1646. Sapper PONNAN. Exemplary character. Good work man and very hard working.

The

The above seven men are specially selected for mention, but I would add that nearly all have worked well under very difficult conditions and fully maintained the credit of the Corps to which they belong.

I have, &c.,

(Sgd) J.WILLCOCKS,

Colonel.

MARKED OFF. IND

(15)

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 5.

M
4787
1900

EXTRACT

MILITARY DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

No. 44 para. 6

Dated 14 June 1900.

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6. I forward, for your information, copy of a correspondence* regarding the return to India of a lance havildar and 13 sappers of the Madras Sappers, who have been invalided from West Africa.

M 4787.

* From Colonial Office, dated 18th May 1900, and enclosure.
To ditto, dated 24th May 1900.

(Form 5.)

Y 28786. 5000—6/96. I. 1101.

Return to Mr. _____ Copy for Lord x p6

INDEXED

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 10.

M
4787
1900

DRAFT LETTER PAPER.

Addressed to U. S of S
~~W~~
Colonial Office

India Office,

24 MAY 1900

Reminder in _____ weeks

Noted for

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 18th inst, No. 14837/1900

and to acquaint you in reply that Lord George Hamilton approves of the proposed ~~arrangement for~~ return of the ~~sending back~~ to India Lance Daffadar and 13 sappers of the Madras Sappers who have been invalided from West Africa.

The Govt of India will be informed; and I am to request that the date of departure of the men, the name of steamer by which they will proceed, and the port of destination may be communicated to this Office when arranged.

(Sd) E. CHAPMAN.
Major General,
Military Secretary.

2 draft

2878

MB.

(Form 10.)

Y 4628. 5000.—11/99. I. 1994.

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. **14837/1900**

Dost + pc / Colen 386/2,3,1

M 4787 1900

Downing Street,

18 May, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a despatch, with its enclosures, from Brigadier-General Lugard, reporting the invaliding from West Africa of one Lance Havildar, and thirteen sappers of the Madras Sappers who have been employed in the West African Frontier Force.

Cen L:W A.F.F.n°4. 29 Mch

2. The despatch only reached England by the mail steamer by which General Lugard stated that he would send the invalided Sappers, but the Sappers themselves were not on board the steamer.

3. General Lugard has been asked by telegram to report the actual date of their departure from West Africa, and arrangements will be made for their reception on their arrival in this country, and, if the Secretary of State for India has no objection, for sending them back to India without undue delay.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. L. Antrobus.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

INDIA OFFICE.

RECEIVED 3 INDIA OFFICE 18 MAY. 1900

M
4787
1900

Copy.

Government House, Northern Nigeria

March 29th, 1900

WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE

No.4.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have found it necessary on the recommendation of a Medical Board, and from my own and Colonel Willcocks' observations to send out of this country 14 Madrasses who have been constantly ill, and who are home-sick and now of little use. Several of them have had black-water fever(one has had two attacks). I request that arrangements may be made for their despatch to India, and in order to give time for this, and to allow of the approach of warmer weather in England, I do not propose to despatch them until the mail of April 21st* I attach the report of the Medical Board held on them.

I have, etc.,

(sgd) F.D.Lugard.

H.Commissioner.

*Arriving in England on May 12th.

The Rt.Honble.

Secretary of State.

Colonial Office. London.S.W.

MARKED OFF.
INDEXED

(19)

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 5.

M
11225
1899

EXTRACT

Indian

MILITARY DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF

No. 122 para. 22

Dated 30 Nov 1899

M 11,225.

22. I forward herewith copy of a letter† from the Colonial Office, with original certificate of the death of Lance-Naik Anthonathan, Madras Sappers and Miners.

[*In continuation of paragraph* 17 *of my Military Despatch No.* 3, *dated 5th January* 1899.]

† Dated 14th November 1899.
(Enclosure in original.)

(Form 5.)

Y 24231. 5000.—3/93. I. 692.

INDEXED

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. 31242/99.

Col 386/3 P.P. 12286/98

M
11225
1899

Downing Street,

14 November, 1899.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr.Secretary Chamberlain to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that he has learned with regret from a despatch from the Officer Commanding the West African Frontier Force that No.2005 Lance-Naik Anthonathan, of the Madras Sappers attached to the Force died at Jebba of Blackwater Fever on the 22nd of September last.

2. I am to transmit to you the death-certificate sent home by the Officer Commanding the Force.

Death Certificate. (In orig.)

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. L. Antrobus.

RECEIVED
1
15 NOV. 1899
INDIA OFFICE

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

INDIA OFFICE.

MARKED OFF.
INDEXED.

(21)

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 5.

M
12286
1898

EXTRACT

MILITARY DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

No. 3 para. 17

Dated 5 Jan 1899

17. I forward herewith copy of a letter† from the Colonial Office reporting the death in West Africa of Sapper Maduranayakan, Madras Sappers and Miners.

[*In continuation of paragraph* 13 *of my Military Despatch No.* 129, *dated* 1*st December* 1898.]

M 12,286/98.

† Dated 15th December 1898.

(Form 5.)

Y 28786. 5000.—6/96. I. 1101.

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. 27871/98.

11071
12053

M
12286
1898

Downing Street,

15th December, 1898.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that he has learned with great regret from a telegram from the Officer Commanding the West African Frontier Force that No.1324 Sapper Maduranayakan (Maduranoyogun), of the Madras Sappers attached to the Force, died on the 16th of November last.

2. Any further details which Colonel Willcocks may furnish by mail will be communicated to you as soon as they are received.

I am

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. L. Antrobus

RECEIVED
16 DEC 1898
INDIA OFFICE

The Under Secretary of State,

India Office.

(23)

MARKED OFF
INDEXED

MILITARY DEPARTMENT FORM 5.

M
11071
1898

EXTRACT

MILITARY DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

No. 129 para. 13

Dated 1 Dec 1898

M 11,071.

13. I forward herewith copy of a letter† from the Colonial Office reporting the death in West Africa of Naik Lakshmanan, Madras Sappers and Miners.

† Dated 11th November 1898.

(Form 5.)

Y 28786. 5000.—6/96. I. 1101.

INDEXED

Communications on this subject should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.,

and the following Number quoted. 25034/98

M
11071
1898

Coll 386/2

Downing Street

11th November 1898.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr.Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, that he has learned with great regret from a telegram from the Officer Commanding the West African Frontier Force that No.1129 Naik Lakshmanan, of the detachment of Madras Sappers attached to the Force, died on the 31st ultimo.

2. A further communication will be addressed to you on the receipt of fuller information by mail.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. L. Antrobus.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

INDIA OFFICE.

RECEIVED
12 NOV. 1898
INDIA OFFICE

Collection 386 British West Africa, Nigeria, etc. IOR/L/MIL/7/15789. 1897-1920. MS Selected India Office Records on Colonial Africa: Selected India Office Records on Colonial Africa. British Library. Nineteenth Century Collections Online, link.gale.com/apps/doc/AOUCAM801338768/NCCO?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-NCCO&xid=6188a5f7&pg=1. Accessed 29 Apr. 2022.